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**SUU'S SATELLITE SALON SERIES
PRESENTS "A LITTLE BIT OF PLUCK"
JANUARY 20 & 21, 2012**

Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah: Music and movement blend in SUU's highly entertaining **Satellite Salon Series** in a special two-day series of events developed by members of the music and dance departments featuring series creator, **Dr. Lynn Vartan**, percussionist, and **Paul C. Ocampo** and **Shannon Vance**, SUU dance faculty. They will be joined by guest artists, harpist **Alison Bjorkedal** and dancer **Lane Gifford**. Vartan, Bjorkedal and Ocampo will participate in a **master class** and **Q&A** at **3:00pm** on **Friday, January 20, 2012**. On **Saturday, September 10, 2011**, the same trio will participate in a family workshop, "**Dance Unwrapped**," at **10:30am**, and a concert entitled **A Little Bit of Pluck** at **7:30pm**. All events will take place at **Thorley Recital Hall** located on campus in the Music Building. **All events are free and opened to the general public.**

This Satellite Salon Series is comprised of the three events over a two-day period. On Friday, January 20, 2012, at 3:00pm, in a **master class** setting, Alison Bjorkedal and Dr. Lynn Vartan demonstrate instrumental techniques and collaborate with Paul C. Ocampo to create choreography on the spot for SUU and select high school students. Following the dance workshop, the trio discusses their careers as working artists. The master class is targeted to college and high school age students. On Saturday morning January 21, at 10:30am, the casual **Dance Unwrapped** features a program in which youngsters and parents explore their creativity in a unique movement project created by Ocampo with music by Vartan and Bjorkedal. Loose clothing and rubber sole footwear is encouraged. Noisy children are welcome to attend with their parents who can walk them around the family-friendly event which is geared to young children, families and the community. The third and final event is a free concert.

On Saturday evening, ***A Little Bit of Pluck*** is a vibrant collaboration of the instrumentalists and dancers. The concert's first half will feature Alison Bjorkedal and Dr. Lynn Vartan performing works that showcase the harp and various percussion instruments. Their set includes *Oriental Dance and Toccata* by Aram Khachaturian, *Serenade* from *Suite Española No. 1* and a *Malagueña* both by Isaac Albeniz, *Impromptu* by Gabriel Fauré, and *Pavane et Bransles* by Antoine Francisque. In the second act, dancers Lane Gifford, Shannon Vance and Paul C. Ocampo will perform, accompanied by Bjorkedal and Vartan. The concert will pulsate with percussion, movement and lots of "pluck."

Alison Bjorkedal, a freelance orchestral, chamber, and solo musician and teacher, is an acting principal of the Pasadena Pops Orchestra and has performed with the San Diego Symphony, Downey Symphony, and the San Luis Obispo Symphony. She has played harp on television including ABC's *Dancing with the Stars* and the PBS Special *David Foster and Andrea Bocelli's My Christmas*. An avid proponent of contemporary chamber music, she gave the world premiere of William Kraft's *Encounters XII for Percussion and Harp* and Anne LeBaron's *HSING for solo harp*, and has performed with contemporary ensembles including Southwest Chamber Music, the Los Angeles Philharmonic's Green Umbrella Series and Nimbus Ensemble. Notable recordings include Southwest Chamber Music's *Complete Chamber Music of Carlos Chávez, Volume 4* and William Kraft's *Encounters* box set, both Latin-Grammy nominated. Alison was harpist for Southwest Chamber Music's *Ascending Dragon Music Festival*, a new music festival and cultural exchange with Vietnam. Alison earned her Masters and Doctorate of Musical Arts degrees in harp performance from the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music and her Bachelor of Music degree (magna cum laude) from the University of Oregon.

Lane Gifford is the Artistic Director of Lane & Co. Born in Massachusetts, she first learned to dance at the Boston Conservatory, and received a BFA in dance performance and an MFA specializing in choreography from Purchase College. After receiving a French Cultural Service Award from the French government she lived in Paris, where she danced for José Caseneuve and Jean Marc Torres and taught modern and improvisation at the International School of Paris. Lane & Co. has been seen at venues including Queens Museum of Art with the Orchestra of St. Luke's, Dance New Amsterdam RAW Material Concert, Inside/Out at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, the New York International 2008 Fringe Festival, Le Poisson Rouge in NYC, New York Theatre Workshop work in progress program, and the 92nd St. Y. Most recently Gifford participated in a residency and commission with Ballet Nouveau Colorado and Redline Gallery, while future performances include an evening of work at Baruch Performing Arts Center in December 2011. She is one of the co-founders and curators of Reverb Festival, a yearly dance festival taking place in New York City. Recipient of a 2011 Manhattan Community Arts Fund Grant, a 2011 Building Up Infrastructure Levels for Dance (BUILD) Grant, a Twyla Tharp Residency Award, a Telly Award in Design for her work in television, a Professional Incentive Award (Columbia University), Outstanding MFA Award (Purchase College) and a French Cultural Service/Government Grant (Paris, France) Lane Gifford has been recognized for her contribution to dance and the arts.

Paul C. Ocampo received his Master of Fine Arts degree from The Ohio State University. He choreographed and performed with The Ballet Philippines for seven years and with Singapore Dance Theatre from 1990-1999. With BP and SDT, he performed extensively and participated in numerous International Festivals. Ocampo was awarded the Shell-NAC Young Artist Award and is a recipient of scholarships from National Arts Council (Singapore), Lee Foundation (Singapore) and Howell Dance Fund. A keen learner of different languages, he has received a Labanotation Teacher Certification. He has worked with many illustrious choreographers including: Susan Hadley, Victoria Uris, Bebe Miller, Joe Alegado, Graham Lustig, Jean Paul Commelin, Andre Prokovsky, Leigh Warren, the late Anthony Then, Goh Soo Khim, and many more. At SUU, Ocampo is Associate Professor of Dance and teaches modern dance, ballet, liberal education courses, movement for actors, composition and motif movement analysis.

Shannon Vance graduated with an MFA in Modern Dance from the University of Utah where she received the 2009-2010 Graduate Teaching Assistantship and, performed in Edgar Zendejas "Ziji" and Nicholas Leichter's, "Free the Angels" (PDC showcases, 2010). Before graduate work, Shannon directed the Mountain View High Dance Program, producing nine concerts and choreographing *Les Miserables*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Little Mary Sunshine*. She holds a B.A. in Dance Education from BYU, where she toured with the Ballroom Dance Company, competed as a *ten-dancer* at the amateur level, and performed with *Dancensemble*. Her diverse background also includes jazz, Latin, ballet, precision, and hip-hop. She promotes a dance philosophy integrating all genres and free-lances for various studios, competitions, and intensives. Shannon appeared in the 2002 Olympic Opening Ceremonies and was a Miss Dance Drill USA top-five finalist in 1998. She teaches contemporary, ballroom, musical theatre, creative dance, and kinesiology at Southern Utah University.

Percussionist **Dr. Lynn Vartan** performs regularly in addition to teaching at SUU. She is percussionist for Southwest Chamber Music, two-time Grammy® nominee in the "Best Classical Album of the Year" and "Best Small Ensemble with or without a conductor" categories. Vartan has been featured on the Los Angeles Philharmonic Green Umbrella Series, the Different Trains Series and has soloed with the Music and the Court series in Pasadena, California, and the Sierra Wind Symphony. She is currently producing two solo albums which will be released next year. Vartan received her master's and doctorate degrees from the University of Southern California with special honors and recognition. She teaches percussion at Southern Utah University.

The Satellite Salon Series allows for personal interaction and communication between a resident or guest musician, performer and or visual artist and music students from SUU and the region through master classes, question and answer sessions and workshops. The Series is also an educational program, designed to give southern Utah rural high school students the opportunity to learn from professional musicians and artists during the Master's Class. The music, dance or arts "Unwrapped" component

provides a casual concert or visual art experience for young children in the community, where they can sit on stage and listen and watch the performer or participate in a hands-on music or art project.

The Satellite Salon Series and “Dance Unwrapped” are made possible by funding from Arts Fusion, Arts Works for Kids!, and a grant from the Arts In Education Program with the Utah Division of Arts and Museums.

Experience the excitement when the worlds of music and dance joyfully collide. Do not miss “**A Little Bit of Pluck**,” which promises to be highly entertaining. For more information on the College of Performing and Visual Arts events, please call the Arts Hotline at (435) 865-8800, or visit www.suu.edu/arts.

ABOUT THE COLLEGE

The Southern Utah University College of Performing and Visual Arts is comprised of nationally accredited departments of Art and Design, Music, Theatre Arts and Dance, as well as a graduate program in Arts Administration. The College offers 16 different degree areas, including liberal arts Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees; professional Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Fine Arts in art and theatre degrees; and a Master of Fine Arts in Arts Administration degree. More than 60 full- and part-time faculty and staff are engaged in teaching and mentoring over 550 majors in the College. Over 1100 students enroll each year in over 195 arts classes on the SUU campus. The College presents 100 performances, lectures, presentations, and exhibitions each year. The College’s affiliate organizations include the Braithwaite Fine Arts Gallery, American Folk Ballet, Utah Shakespeare Festival, and the SUU Ballroom Dance Company. For more information about the College of Performing and Visual Arts, contact the Office of the Dean (435) 865-8561, or by e-mail at cpvamktg@suu.edu.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS: SATELLITE SALON SERIES: “A LITTLE BIT OF PLUCK”

WHAT: Music and movement blend in SUU’s highly entertaining Satellite Salon Series, in a special two-day series of events developed by members of the music and dance departments featuring series creator, Dr. Lynn Vartan, percussionist, and Paul C. Ocampo and Shannon Vance, members of SUU dance faculty. They will be joined by guest artists, harpist Alison Bjorkedal and dancer Lane Gifford.

WHO: Southern Utah University, College of Performing and Visual Arts, Music Department

WHEN: January 20 & 21, 2012

TIME: Master Class, Fri., Jan. 20, 2012 at 3:00pm
“Dance Unwrapped,” Sat., Jan. 21, 2012 at 10:30am
“A Little Bit of Pluck,” Sat., Jan. 21, 2012 at 7:30pm

WHERE: All events: Thorley Recital Hall, Music Building, Southern Utah University, Cedar City, UT

TICKETS: Phone: Arts Hotline: (435) 865-8800 or visit: www.suu.edu/arts

PRICES: Free and the General Public is encouraged to attend.